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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JKORNBLUM
APPROVED BY EUR/MR. BARBOUR
S/S-O:L. MACFARLANE
----------152138Z 082702 /75-61
O 152100Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138985

EXDIS

FOL RPT MOSCOW 8515 ACTION SECSTATE 14 JUN 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8515

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CASC UR SOPN

SUBJECT: TOTH CASE: JUNE 14 INTERROGATION AT LEFORTOVA

REF: MOSCOW 8349

1. LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT TOTH WAS INTERROGATED FOR FOUR HOURS JUNE 14 AT LEFORTOVA PRISON BY A KGB MAJOR DOBROVOLSKIY. HE WAS SUMMONED TO LEFORTOVA JUNE 15 AT 10:00 AM FOR A SECOND SESSION, BUT WAS ALLOWED TO GO HOME OVERNIGHT. THE SESSION WAS CALM AND NOT HEATED. TOTH WAS SKED SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES AS A JOURNALIST.
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THESE FOCUSED ON HIS METHODS OF GATHERING INFORMATION AND ESPECIALLY ON THOSE DISSIDENTS WITH WHOM HE ADMITTED HE HAD CONTACTS. TOTH NAMED ORLOV, SHCHARANSKIY, SLEPAK, LERNER, VORONINA, AND SAKHAROV. HE WAS ASKED WHETHER ANY AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE PARTY IN THE APARTMENT OF ALEKSANDR LERNER AT WHICH TOTH HAD MET PETUKHOV, AND TOTH STATED THAT FORMER FSO NATHANSON HAD BEEN

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PRESENT.

2. TOTH CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT POINT TO INTERRO-
GATOR'S QUESTIONS TO BE THAT INFORMATION ABOUT SCIENCE
WHICH IS NO OFFICIALLY GIVEN OUT CAN BE CON-
SIDERED SECRET AND THAT IGNORANCE OF THIS POINT OF LAW
IS NOT AN EXCUSE. THEREFORE, TOTH WAS TOLD THAT
HIS RECEIPT OF INFORMATION ON PARAPSYCHOLOGY
MAY BE VIOLATION OF LAW. INTERROGATOR NOTED THAT
TOTH'S ACTIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED "SPYING IN A WAY".
APART FROM THIS SUGGESTION, THERE WAS NO INDICATION
THAT TOTH WAS BEING ACCUSED OR THAT THE INVESTIGATION
WAS BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE IF HE HAD COMMITTED
A CRIME. AT NO TIME WAS TOTH TOLD THE PURPOSE OF THE
INVESTIGATION OR WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE INVESTI-
GATION.

3. TOTH WAS INFORMED OF THE PROCEDURAL ARTICLES OF
RFSFR CODE WHICH WOULD GOERN HIS INTERROGATION AND
INTER ALIA WAS TOLD THAT HE COULD BE QUESTIONED ABOUT
ANYTHING OF INTEREST TO THE ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING
THE INVESTIGATION AND THAT HE DID NOT UNDER SOVIET
LAW ENJOY DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

4. AFTER INITIALLY OBJECTING, TOTH SIGNED THE PROTOCOL
OF HIS INTERROGATION, BUT WITH A WRITTEN "DISCLAIMER"
THAT HE HAD NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE "ESSENCE"
OF THE PROTOCOL AS TRANSLATED TO HIM.

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5. CONSULAR OFFICER'S REQUEST TO BE PRESENT AT INTERRO-
GATION WAS REFUSED, BUT HE WAS ALLOWED TO WAIT OUTSIDE
LEFORTOVA AND HAD OCCASIONAL CONTACT WITH THE AUTHOR-
ITIES. THERE WAS GOOD REPESENTATION FROM THE AMERICAN
PRESS AT LEFORTOVA AS TOTH WALKED OUT. HE TOLD THEM
ONLY THAT HE WAS NOT TOLD THE OBJECT OF THE INVESTIGATION,
THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN CHARGED, THAT HE SIGNED A PROTOCOL
WITH A RESERVATION, THAT UNOFFICIALLY OBTAINED INFORMATION
CONCERNING SCIENCE IS APPARENTLY ILLEGAL, AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE
TO RETURN JUNE 15 TO LEFORTOVA FOR QUESTIONING.

6. THE REMAINDER OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION OF THE SUB-
STANCE OF THE INTERROGATION TOTH GAVE US IN CONFIDENCE.
TOON

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

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